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03-10-05

PATENT APPLICATION

DOCKET NO.: OTTR.01USC1

IFW

IN THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Curtis R. Richardson

Application No.: 10/645,439

Examiner: Anthony Q. Edwards

Filing Date: 08/20/2003

Group Art Unit: 2835

Title: PROTECTIVE MEMBRANE FOR TOUCH SCREEN DEVICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

(X) Response/Amendment - "Statement of Interview" (Resp to OA 2-18-2005) ( ) Petition to extend time to respond  
( ) New fee as calculated below ( ) Supplemental Declaration  
( ) No additional fee  
( ) Other:

| CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY LARGE ENTITY                    |  |                        |  |                         |             |                           |
|--|--|------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| (1)<br>FOR   | (2)<br>CLAIMS REMAINING<br>AFTER AMENDMENT | (3)<br>NUMBER<br>EXTRA | (4)<br>HIGHEST NUMBER<br>PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | (5)<br>PRESENT<br>EXTRA | (6)<br>RATE | (7)<br>ADDITIONAL<br>FEES |
| TOTAL<br>CLAIMS                                      |  | MINUS                  |  | =                       | X \$50      | \$                        |
| INDEP.<br>CLAIMS                                     |  | MINUS                  |  | =                       | X \$200     | \$                        |
| [ ] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM |  |                        |  |                         |             | + \$360 \$                |
| EXTENSION<br>FEE                                     | 1ST MONTH<br>\$120                         | 2ND MONTH<br>\$450     | 3RD MONTH<br>\$1,020                         | 4TH MONTH<br>\$1,590    | \$          |                           |
| TOTAL FEE<br>FOR THIS AMENDMENT                      |  |                        |  |                         |             | \$                        |

( ) Attached is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
( ) Please charge to Deposit Account 50-1491 the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-1491 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 50-1491 under 37 CFR 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as:

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Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents,  
P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date of Deposit: March 8, 2005

Signature: *Adrienne L. Barclay*  
Typed Name: Adrienne L. Barclay

Respectfully submitted,

By:

*William W. Cochran*  
William W. Cochran  
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Date: March 8, 2005



ON THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner for Patents  
US Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Statement of Interview**

Dear Sir:

In response to Office communication mailed on 2/18/2005, and in accordance with MPEP Section 713.04, a Statement of the Substance of the Interview is provided herein.

Examiner Anthony Q. Edwards conducted a telephone conference with Applicant's representatives William Cochran and Thomas Briscoe on 9 February 2005. Applicant's representatives presented a photograph showing "crush-resistant" shell.

Applicant's representatives discussed claims 35-52 pointing out specific limitations and combinations which distinguish Applicant's claims from cited references.

References cited and discussed included U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,456,487; 6,068,119; 6,415,138; and 6,536,589. Applicant's representatives also pointed out that references cited in the parent application and in the previous application had also been considered in preparing Applicant's response.

Novel aspects of Applicant's invention including combinations of a substantially crush-resistant shell, a submersibly watertight enclosure, and a membrane that permits a high-degree of interactivity with an LCD touch screen device in a rugged environment were presented and discussed.

It was pointed out by Applicant's representatives that elements of Applicant's invention provide novel crush-resistance in combination with other claimed elements that were discussed, including: a "an elevated protective rim substantially surrounding a perimeter of said LCD touch screen"; "a shell that is capable of enclosing and substantially surrounding said touch screen device"; "a shell being larger than said touch screen device" so that the "shell may flex when subjected to a crushing force without transmitting said force directly to said touch screen device";

a "substantially rigid" shell. Explanation was given to show that the cited references lack the differentiating and novel elements of Applicant's invention.

It was also pointed out that elements of Applicant's invention provide novel submersible watertightness in combination with other claimed elements that were discussed, including: a "compressible gasket" disposed in the shell; "a clamp" that compresses the shell and creates a submersibly watertight shell; "a flexible protective membrane that is integrally fixed" on the shell. Explanation was given to show that the cited references lack the differentiating and novel elements of Applicant's invention.

It was further pointed out by Applicant's representatives that elements of the Applicant's invention provide novel interactivity with an LCD touch screen in combination with other claimed elements were discussed including: a protective membrane that is "sufficiently thin" and "sufficiently smooth" to transmit stylus strokes to an LCD "touch screen"; "recessed areas" in the protective membrane that "provide tactile feedback"; "textured areas" in the protective membrane; "printed areas" in the protective membrane; "colored areas" in the protective membrane.

Examiner informed Applicant's representatives that further search would be required and would occur upon filing of a proper response.

Response to Non-Final Office Action mailed 9-27-2004 was filed and Applicants request that the amended claims be entered and that following examination the amended claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005.

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